

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 01249 101234Z

50

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

OMB-01 AID-05 MC-02 TRSE-00 COME-00 /068 W

----- 092416

R 101007Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8771

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 1249

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, US

SUBJ: RESTRAINED OPTIMISM ON MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY

1. USINFO CURRENT REACTION MESSAGES, REPEATED TO DEPARTMENT, PROVIDE OVERALL MEDIA COVERAGE OF BHUTTO US VISIT, INCLUDING EXTENSIVE LAUDATORY WEEKEND EDITORIAL COMMENT. HANDLING OF ARMS SUPPLY ISSUE WILL BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO DEPARTMENT AND WARRANTS SEPARATE ANALYSIS GIVEN HERE.

2. MOST PAPERS PUT ARMS ISSUE IN BROADER CONTEXT OF WARM RECEPTION BHUTTO RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON AND EXTENSIVE MISSIONARY ACTIVITY HE CARRIED OUT THERE. HIS REPORTED SUCCESS IN ESTABLISHING A FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT FORD, HIS ACHIEVEMENT IN WINNING REITERATED US POLITICAL (AS WELL AS ECONOMIC) SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN AS DEMONSTRATED IN THE PHRASING OF THE JOINT STATEMENT, AND HIS EXPRESSIONS OF SATISFACTION WITH HIS VISIT. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, MEDIA HAS EXPRESSED RESTRAINED OPTIMISM ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR EARLY LIFTING OF THE LETHAL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 01249 101234Z

WEAPONS EMBARGO. SEVERAL EDITORIALS MENTION GREATER

IMPORTANCE OF CONGRESS IN FOREIGN POLICY MAKING PROCESS  
AND NEED TO WIN CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR POLICY CHANGE;  
GENERAL ASSUMPTION SEEMS TO BE THAT BHUTTO HAS MADE  
CONSIDERABLE HEADWAY IN THIS AREA BY HIS EFFECTIVENESS  
IN PUTTING PAKISTAN'S CASE TO HILL LEADERS AND THE PRESS.  
THERE IS A NOTICEABLE ABSENCE OF ANY SOURNESS ABOUT FACT  
THAT NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN ANNOUNCED.

3. SOME EDITORIALS MENTION FOREIGN REPORTS ABOUT AN EARLY  
POLICY CHANGE (E.G. PPP ORGAN MUSAWAAT, WHICH QUOTES  
BBC AS SAYING CONGRESS WILL APPROVE SUPPLY OF ARMS TO  
PAKISTAN THIS MONTH), AND STORIES FILED BY PAK CORRESPONDENTS  
WHO ACCOMPANIED BHUTTO CARRY BOTH FIRST HAND AND SECOND  
HAND SPECULATION ON THIS SCORE. FOR EXAMPLE, H.K. BURKI,  
IN HIS SUNDAY COMMENTARY IN THE PAK TIMES, WROTE THAT  
DESPITE THE INDIAN CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT THIS HAPPENING, "THE  
EMBARGO, IT APPEARS, MAY BE LIFTED IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.  
THE FORD ADMINISTRATION CERTAINLY REGARDS ITS CONTINUATION  
UNJUSTIFIED. SOME OF THE CONGRESSIONAL HURDLES THE PM HAS  
HELPED REMOVE AND THIS SHOULD ENCOURAGE PRESIDENT FORD TO  
MOVE FORWARD." TODAY'S PAK TIMES REPORTS GWERTZMAN'S NEW  
YORK TIMES ITEM THAT US PLANS "TO ANNOUNCE IN THE NEXT TWO  
OR THREE WEEKS A DECISION..." (PAK TIMES REPORT GOES ON  
TO WARN PARENTHETICALLY THAT "IT MAY BE NOTED THAT WHILE THE  
AMERICAN PRESS WAS GENERALLY HINTING THAT THE EMBARGO MAY  
BE LIFTED, THE PRIME MINISTER HAD STATED THAT THE PRESIDENT  
HAD NEITHER SAID A CATEGORICAL YES NOR NO ON THIS QUESTION.")

4. BURKI HAS CAUTIONED THAT IT WOULD BE WRONG TO CONCLUDE  
THAT ONCE THE BAN IS WITHDRAWN ARMS WILL BEGIN TO FLOW  
FREELY TO PAKISTAN AND CONCLUDES THAT WERE THE EMBARGO  
LIFTED THE US WILL NOT SELL CERTAIN TYPES OF WEAPONS TO  
PAKISTAN AND MAY SELL OTHERS ONLY IN VERY LIMITED QUANTITIES.  
ASIDE FROM THIS, THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE SPECULATION  
ABOUT WHAT A CHANGE IN POLICY WILL ACTUALLY MEAN. HOWEVER,  
MANY EDITORIALS NOTE APPROVINGLY BHUTTO'S STATEMENTS THAT  
PAKISTAN NEEDS ARMS FOR DEFENSE ONLY, CANNOT HOPE TO  
COMPETE WITH BIGGER, MORE POWERFUL INDIA, ETC. PRESS HAS  
ALSO TAKEN NOTE OF US POLICY TO ENCOURAGE RECONCILIATION IN  
SUBCONTINENT AND NOT TO DO ANYTHING TO ALTER STRATEGIC  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 01249 101234Z

BALANCE OR CONTRIBUTE TO AN ARMS RACE THER.  
LUPPI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ISLAMA01249  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750048-0034  
**From:** ISLAMABAD  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750258/aaaabzvt.tel  
**Line Count:** 109  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by SmithRJ>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RESTRAINED OPTIMISM ON MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PK, US, (BHUTTO, ALI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006